

From: Ray Petrone
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 1:11pm
Subject: The Settlement in Perspective

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have followed this case for years and have read many of the documents including Judge Jackson's Findings and Ruling, the Appeals Court 125-page document and the latest Settlement documents. I have written everyone from Presidents Clinton and Bush to my Senators and Congressmen about my feelings about this case. One thing stands out in my mind. In the past when I wrote public officials with my feelings that this case is overblown and that it was time to move beyond it I was told that it is "A MATTER STRICTLY FOR THE COURTS". Now we have public hearings. So once more I will voice my opinion but I fail to understand why there should be more hoopla surrounding this matter at this time just as I fail to see why the State Attorneys General continue to insist on separate positions. It seems to me that they derailed the conclusion of this case at least twice to date by their divisive and self-serving behavior. Each time the States have delayed the conclusion of this matter there have been coincident drops in the stock market and blows to the economy. A true coincidence? I seriously think not. Let's get this matter into perspective with past cases where consumers or commercial customers may have actually suffered from corporate activities.

Between the economic and non-economic challenges that this nation faces today we seem to have a disproportionate effort spent on this effort not to mention the waste of taxpayer money at the federal and state levels for legal proceedings. I strenuously urge you to lend your voices to the voice of reason and move forward with the existing settlement as it stands. Hopefully the nation can still capitalize on Microsoft's offer to contribute a billion dollars of goods and services to our school systems although it looks as though the pending Apple litigation makes that less likely every day. Let's put our national efforts where they are truly needed and not on such silly measures as controversy about "the tying of the browser to the operating system". Try saying that in the same sentence or paragraph as "the collapse of the World Trade Center" and you can't help see some of the triviality.

Respectfully,
Raymond Petrone, P.E.